

**ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS FORUM
FRIDAY, 18TH MARCH, 2011**

Present:-

Mr. G. Jackson (Chairman)	High Greave Infant School
Val Broomhead	Unison
Roger Burman	Winternhill School
Jane Fearnley	Herringthorpe Junior School
Geoff Gillard	Sheffield Diocese
Margaret Hague	The Arnold Centre
Peter Hawkridge	Teacher Unions
John Henderson	Whiston Worrygoose/Canklow Primary Schools
Russell Heritage	Wingfield Business and Enterprise College
Ruth Johnson	Pre-School Learning Alliance
Paul Lakin	Borough Councillor
Philip Robins	Primary Governor
David Silvester	Wath C. of E. Primary School

Officers:-

David Hill	Children and Young Peoples' Services, RMBC
Joanne Robertson	Schools Finance, RMBC
Vera Njegic	Schools Finance, RMBC
Joyce Thacker	Strategic Director, Children and Young Peoples' Services
Sue Wilson	Children and Young Peoples' Services, RMBC
Dawn Mitchell	Democratic Services, RMBC

161. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Anita Burtoft, Steve Clayton and Dorothy Smith.

162. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH MARCH, 2011

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th March, 2011, be approved as a correct record.

163. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT - BUDGET - CENTRAL SPEND 2011/12

Further to Minute No. 151 of 4th March, 2011, Joanne Robertson, Finance Manager, CYPS, reported that the figures were still being worked through so unfortunately a final detailed breakdown of the Dedicated Schools Grant could not be presented.

Joyce Thacker, Strategic Director CYPS, stated that there was an issue with the requirement to include 2 year olds for which there was no trend data to assist in the calculations.

Agreed:- That the final breakdown of the Dedicated Schools Grant be submitted to the 8th April meeting.

164. YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER GRID FOR LEARNING - FUNDING 2011/12

Further to Minute No. 157, Sue Wilson, Performance and Quality Manager, CYPs, reported that she had followed up on the issues raised at the previous meeting.

Unfortunately the connectivity could not be paid for on its own. It had to be the £90,000/£60,000 split as it stood. It was proposed that CYPs contribute £50,000 with the remaining £100,000 coming from the DSG. This had been discussed earlier in the week and had not been met with favourable response from Head Teachers. It has been ascertained that other authorities had never funded such provision and had always passed the costs back to schools.

The possibility was being explored that, once the 2GB upgrade was in place from April, it being used corporately by the Council. To this end, the Council was to pay £90,000 towards the installation costs of the upgrade.

If Notice was served to terminate the contract, £90,000 per annum for the next 3 years of the contract would have to be paid.

Should schools fund the £100,000, a formula would have to be drawn up as to how they would be charged i.e. size of the school.

The payment was not just for connectivity and the increased band width but also exploiting and using YHGFL better than had been previously. There were a lot of resources there that were not being used. As the £90,000 had to be paid, the service might as well be used to its fully potential and examine what value for money was derived. YHGFL actually ran sessions and had staffing resources to come out to schools.

The following issues were raised:-

- It would be easy to agree to the £100,000 coming from the DSG but less easy to say which funding lines would suffer
- GFL was very costly, issues of compatibility and delivery
- Virgin Media offered a similar service for 1/3 of the cost
- Schools were to challenge the position

A letter had been received from 1 secondary school with regard to the Service Level Agreement and quality of Service which was to be fed into a meeting with RBT. Customer satisfaction work was also to be carried out and reported back to RBT. Any evidence schools could provide would be helpful to discussions. A group of schools and Children Services Officers were working with RBT on what they wanted from the system.

Agreed:- That the cost per school be established and the benefits to schools submitted to the next meeting.

165. SCHOOLS FINANCE REGULATIONS 201

Joanne Robertson, Finance Manager CYPS, introduced The School Finance (England) Regulations 2011 a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda. Within the document was a summary of the changes which included:-

- Early Years Single Funding Formula
- Mainstreaming of Grants
- Central Expenditure
- Minimum Funding Guarantee
- Special Educational Needs
- Exclusions
- Federations
- Carbon Reduction Commitment
- Service Children
- Academies
- Notification of Budget Shares
- Technical Changes

The changes came into effect as from 1st April, 2011, which had been incorporated into Rotherham's processes.

Discussion ensued on school crossing patrols the cost of which must not be included within a school's budget. All schools that had such a facility had been written to informing them that the Authority would no longer be funding such.

It was noted that, although the Regulations stated that there should be 1 budget for schools in a Federation but, if requested, the 2 budgets could remain.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

166. CONSTITUTION OF SCHOOLS FORUM

David Silvester reported that Governor representation was to be part of the new constitution for the Forum.

He was to attend the next meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs to explain the new constitution and seek nominations.

Once the membership was known discussion was to be held on the range of issues including Chairmanship – should it be a Head Teacher – time and venue of meetings, linkage to cluster meetings.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

167. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that Rev. Ann Wood had resigned from the Forum due to her having moved from the area. She had also expressed her concern regarding the proposed exclusion of the Governors from the reconstituted Forum.

Agreed:- That the Chairman send Rev. Wood on behalf of the Forum thanking

her for her attendance and contributions and informing her of the inclusion of Governors.

168. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That a further meeting of the Forum be held on Friday, 8th April, 2011 at 8.30 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.